

ALBEMARLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

2020

Use of Force – Defensive Action Report Analysis

During 2020 the Albemarle Police Department experienced a total of twenty-seven (27) incidents involving reported uses of force by police personnel. This number represents all use of force forms completed and includes six (6) incidents in which an officer used their firearm to euthanize an injured animal. Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) pepper spray was used once during one (1) encounter on a domestic violence call. The majority of all use of force incidents involved “personal weapons” such as soft and hard hand techniques, physical interaction, along with physical strength to overcome the resistance of the offender.

Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Defined: This is a temporarily disabling aerosol mixture that is composed partly of capsicum and causes irritation that affects the eyes and inflammation of the nose, throat, and skin.

Armament Systems and Procedures (ASP) Defined: An expandable baton may be used in many ways as a weapon. It can be used defensively and offensively to strike, jab, and it can aid in the application of handcuffing applications. Expandable batons are also used for non-weapon purposes such as breaking windows to free individuals trapped in a vehicle, or turning out a suspect's pockets during a search as a precaution against sharp objects.

Stop Sticks Defined: Stop sticks are used to impede or stop the movement of motor vehicles only by puncturing the fleeing vehicle tires. Generally, the strip is composed of metal tubular spikes pointing upward. The stop sticks are designed to puncture and flatten tires when a vehicle is driven over them. The tubular spikes are hollow. These hollow spikes are designed to allow air to escape at a controlled steady pace in an attempt to reduce the risk of the driver crashing the fleeing vehicle.

Use of Force Defined: The use of force, in the context of law enforcement, may be defined as the “amount of effort required by police to compel compliance by an unwilling subject.” The use of force doctrines can be employed by law enforcement officers and military personnel on guard duty. The aim of such doctrines is to balance the needs of security with ethical concerns for the rights and well-being of intruders or suspects.

The actual number of documented incidents an officer used force against another person was documented twenty-one (21) times. Soft/Hard hands-on physical contact was utilized nine (9) times during these incidents, while two (2) incidents in which officers deployed or displayed a Taser during these same situations. There were eight (8) incidents in which officers pulled their duty weapons. An ASP Baton was used once as a leverage device during a fight in the back of an ambulance.

The United States Court of Appeals has made rulings that have affected the guidelines for use of force concerning Taser usage by law enforcement officers. Additionally, the Federal 4th Circuit Court ruling on Armstrong v. Village of Pinehurst regarding Taser use has been implemented into

department policy. The usage of the Taser decreased this year as compared to last year and this was the seventh year with complete Taser statistics being utilized. The two incidents of use of the Taser found no serious injuries to the suspect as a result of this use of force. Departmental guidelines were followed in removing the probes from the suspect's body and clothing.

Stop sticks were only used three (3) times to assist other law enforcement agencies during these mutual aid requests that involved police chases. However, these stop sticks were used only once, the other two motor vehicle pursuits turned before arriving at the deployment staging area.

Albemarle Police Department Use of Force Event Encounters 2020				Suspect	Officer
	Date:	Event Situation:	Force Used:	Injury:	Injury:
1	8/4/2020	Deer Dispatched	Firearm	Animal	None
2	1/2/2020	Deer Dispatched	Firearm	Animal	None
3	1/22/2020	Deer Dispatched	Firearm	Animal	None
4	3/18/2020	Deer Dispatched	Firearm	Animal	None
5	11/12/2020	Deer Dispatched	Firearm	Animal	None
6	12/21/2020	Deer Dispatched	Firearm	Animal	None
7	3/11/2020	Domestic Disturbance	Hands	None	None
8	8/24/2020	Domestic Violence, Assault, Strangulation	Hands	Yes	None
9	3/8/2020	Driving While Impaired Arrest	Hands	None	None
10	2/11/2020	Drug Investigation Call	Hands	Yes	None
11	3/8/2020	Habitual Larceny	Hands	Yes	None
12	11/13/2020	Intoxicated and Disruptive Call	Hands	Yes	None
13	1/27/2020	Domestic Call	Hands, O/C Spray	None	None
14	1/19/2020	Disturbance Call Neighbors	Hands, Taser	Yes	None
15	11/3/2020	Drug Arrest	Hands/Point Taser	None	None
16	1/19/2020	Armed Robbery	Pointed Firearm	None	None
17	8/19/2020	Armed Robbery	Pointed Firearm	None	None
18	12/18/2020	Arson Suspect	Pointed Firearm	Yes	None
19	4/30/2020	Disturbance Neighbors w/Gun	Pointed Firearm	None	None
20	2/29/2020	Motor Vehicle Pursuit APD	Pointed Firearm	None	None
21	3/13/2020	Motor Vehicle Pursuit APD	Pointed Firearm	None	None
22	6/14/2020	Shots Fired Call	Pointed Firearm	None	None
23	5/7/2020	Stolen Motor Vehicle Chase APD	Pointed Firearm	None	None
24	1/17/2020	Motor Vehicle Chase (Mutual Aid) NCSHP	Stop Sticks	None	None
25	2/1/2020	Motor Vehicle Chase (Mutual Aid) SCSO	Stop Sticks	None	None
26	2/17/2020	Motor Vehicle Chase (Mutual Aid) SCSO	Stop Sticks	None	None
27	7/31/2020	Involuntary Commitment Situation	ASP Baton	None	None

There were no officers who were injured while using force with a suspect during 2020. There were six (6) incidents of injuries to the suspect/defendant during these use of force confrontations.

There were eight (8) incidents where officers pulled their duty weapon to affect the arrest without firing their weapons as compared to seven (7) last year. Duty weapon usage increased slightly this year as compared to the previous year. Overall Use of Force increased by 16.6 % percent during all police situations during 2020 (21) compared to 2019 (18). Offender ethnicity comparison during the year, twenty-one situations involved ten Caucasians eleven African-American. Offender gender comparisons during the twenty-one situations involved eighteen males and three females.

Analysis Review: Each Use of Force incident was reviewed by the Chain of Command for policy compliance. There were no instances of policy or procedural violations during reviews by police administration. This annual analysis review did not reveal the need for any policy or procedural revisions or additional training modifications.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jesse D. Huneycutt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Jesse D. Huneycutt

Assistant Chief of Police
Albemarle Police Department.

CALEA 4.1.1 Use of Reasonable Force
CALEA 4.2. Use of Force Reporting and Review